



RUNGE CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

July and August 2003



Grand Opening
July 10, 1993



Summer Splash
July 1999



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Autumn Outdoors
September 1998



Critter Corner Carnival
June 2002

Ten Years Later...

"The Conservation Nature Center will be built at the Woods and Wildlife Trail just off of Highway 179 south of the Conservation Department Headquarters. Construction should begin in a few short months, and we expect to be open and ready for you to visit in early 1993."



The above statement appeared in the first Runge Conservation Nature Center-related newsletter in the fall of 1991. In what seems like a blink of an eye, we are now 10 years old. Runge opened its doors on **July 10, 1993**. Our theme focuses on the natural habitats of Missouri and how they are managed for forest, fish, and wildlife resources. Our mission was and still is to connect the people of Missouri to those natural resources. Now, ten years later, I ask myself, how have we done and how will we continue?

How have we done? Since the summer of 1993, we have had 1,021,631 people visit Runge Conservation Nature Center. According to statistics compiled by the J.C. Convention and Visitors Bureau, Runge is the most visited attraction in Jefferson City followed by the state Capitol. Although we are thrilled with the number of Missourians finding their way through the nature center's front doors, it is the quality of their experiences that mean the most to us. To that accord, staff commitment and excellence in quality conservation education is evident. Evaluation methods help to keep us on our toes, but the real evaluation comes in the eyes of our visitors. We know when a program connects with people; we can feel it! Of the more than one million people who have visited Runge, over 600,000 people received personal interpretive/educational programming by Runge staff or volunteers and I feel good about those connections.

How will we continue? Our mission is not complete. We will continue to listen to you and to those who visit us. We will strive to provide the highest quality conservation interpretation and education, not only to those who walk through our doors, but to those who cannot visit us. We will continue to take programs, exhibits, and activities off-site and do our best to reach as many Missourians as possible with our conservation messages. Each member of the Runge staff is dedicated to our mission, and together we will keep working hard for you.

Ten years later, **July 10, 2003**, we are celebrating our 10th birthday with an open house from 6 PM – 9 PM (See the back page for more information.) You are our guests of honor and we want to thank you for your continued support.



Written by Kathy Cavender, Nature Center Manager

Exhibits

Runge: Through the Years

From the cutting of the ribbon in 1993 to the 10 year celebration in 2003, this exhibit tells the story of Runge Conservation Nature Center. See the progression and find out what's next.



The Keelboat

Discover the largest watercraft used on the fantastic voyage of the Lewis and Clark expedition by visiting the half-scale keelboat replica. This keelboat carried up to 12 tons of cargo, a crew of 27, and had a retractable roof. The replica will be on display in the lobby of Runge Conservation Nature Center through mid-August.



Patsy Dresselhaus - "deojuvante"

"Deojuvante," which means "with God's help," is the approach applied when artist Patsy Dresselhaus

gardens. The "outside canvas" yields many different flowers, insects, and small animals. The fascinating shapes and amazing colors inspire this work.

Stop by the nature center anytime in July and August to view the wonderful artwork of Patsy Dresselhaus, volunteer at Runge Conservation Nature Center.

Flashback!

In October of 2001 a firetower along with interpretive signs were added to the area.

Events for... **July**

Registration for all programs begins on Tuesday, July 1st.
Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

6 Sunday

Birthdays Are Nature Noteworthy Events

3 PM -- All Ages (children accompanied by an adult)

Join in the fun as America concludes its birthday celebration, and Runge gears up for its party. Come along as we sketch and write in our journals about what we find that's worth celebrating. Reservations required.

17 Thursday

Wildlifers--Quilt Block

10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- 50+ Years

Why do geese fly in a "V" pattern? Find the answer to this question at Wildlifers and make a flying geese quilt block to add to your Missouri Sampler. Reservations required.

22 Tuesday

Basic Map and Compass

6 - 7:30 PM -- Families

Do you get lost while walking through the woods? Join us and learn the basics of using a compass and topographic map. Reservations required.

23 Wednesday

Basic Map and Compass

6 - 7:30 PM -- Families

Refer to description for July 22.

25 Friday

Basic Canoeing

6:30 - 8:30 PM -- Adults Only

Welcome to the world of canoeing. Let's start at square one with basic strokes and strategies of flat-water canoeing. We will meet at the Binder Lake boathouse. Dress for the weather. Life jackets, paddles and canoes provided. Reservations required.

Directions to Binder: From Capital Mall take Hwy 50 West to Apache Flats exit. Pass House of Bargains and turn right on Binder Lake Rd. The road will come to a "T" at Rainbow Drive--turn left. You'll pass by the end of the lake on your right side. Turn right after the lake at the gate and this road winds around until you reach the bait shop.

Flashback!

CritterRock received an Emmy in 2002.

26 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

8 AM-6 PM -- 18 Years and older

See splendid sights! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

Come with us to **Onondaga Cave State Park**, where we'll hike the Deer Run Trail (2.5 miles.) After lunch, we'll cool off on a naturalist-led tour of Cathedral Cave, where we'll see exceptional examples of stromatolites (fossilized algal reef organisms) and a very large flowstone known as the Cathedral Bell. **You will need to bring your own flashlight or lantern for the cave tour.** Bring your lunch, water, \$3.00 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Reservations required.

27 Sunday

Goin' on a Pheasant Hunt

1-3 PM -- Young Adults (13-17)

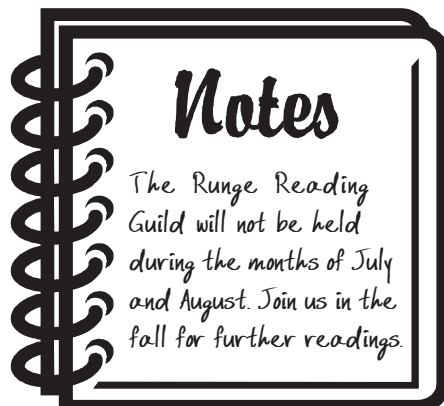
We practiced our aim last month--let's put it to use! This month Runge is hosting the LaserShot, an electronic shooting simulator. Using fun target games, this simulator teaches safety, stance, and other shooting basics. Reservations required.

29 Tuesday

Wild Edibles

7 PM -- Families

Dandelions, sumac, blackberries. . . food fit for a king! After a short indoor program we'll take a hike on one of the nature center trails to discover these wild edibles. We will conclude indoors with a wild edible sampling. Reservations required.



Flashback!

In the fall of 2001, a group of 11 people from Americorps worked for three months on the grounds at Runge. Their accomplishments included habitat restoration and the construction of a 180' boardwalk along Moss Rock Trace.

LaserShot

LaserShot, an electronic shooting simulator, can help you learn safety, stance, leading, follow-through, and other shooting basics, and can accommodate one or two shooters at a time. Choose between hunter education scenarios, hunting, or target games. Come test your shooting skills or learn some new ones! LaserShot will be open to the public on the following dates and times:

Saturday, July 5 ~ 10 AM - Noon

Thursday, July 10 ~ 6-9 PM

Sunday, July 13 ~ 1-3 PM

Saturday, July 19 ~ 1-3 PM

Saturday, July 26 ~ 10 AM - Noon

For the little ones . . .

Flutterby Butterfly

From caterpillar to chrysalis and eventually to a full grown butterfly, this life cycle is truly amazing. We will keep our eyes open to the wonders of the butterfly this month. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods Birth through 2 years of age

Tuesday, July 15 - 10 AM

Friday, July 18 - 11 AM

Friday, July 25 - 10 AM

Little Acorns 3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, July 8 - 10 AM

Wednesday, July 23 - 1 PM

Thursday, July 24 - 2 PM

Friday, July 29 - 2 PM

Events for... **August**

Registration for all programs begins on Tuesday, July 1st.
Call 573/526-5544 to make your reservation.

12 Tuesday

Wild Edibles

7 PM -- Families

Dandelions, sumac, blackberries. . . food fit for a king! After a short indoor program we'll take a hike on one of the nature center trails to discover these wild edibles. We will conclude indoors with a wild edible sampling. Reservations required.

16 Saturday

The Runge Hiking Club

8 AM-4:30 PM -- 18 Years and older

There's a lot to see at 17,203-acre **Lake of the Ozarks State Park**, Missouri's largest. Join us as we visit the southern, less-used corner of the park and explore some of its gems. We'll begin with a naturalist-led tour on an underground hike at Ozark Caverns (0.5 mile.) After lunch, we'll hike through a savanna, glade, fen, and over two swinging bridges, all on the Coakley Hollow Trail (1 mile.) Bring your lunch, water, \$3.00 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and wear hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

17 Sunday

Fishing Excursion at Scrivner Road Conservation Area

2-4 PM -- Young Adults (13-17)

Just minutes from Jefferson City, Scrivner Road Conservation Area is a great place to fish! We'll drop our lines and hook bluegill, redears, and hopefully some catfish. This fishing trip is catch and release, and remember if you are 16 years or older you must purchase a fishing license. Fishing gear, bait, and bug spray provided. Bring a hat, a water bottle, and wear sturdy shoes. Reservations required.

Flashback!

The first meeting of the Conservation Kids' Club was held on July 27, 1993.

21 Thursday

Wildlifers--Quilt Block

10-11:30 AM, 1-2:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM, and 6-7:30 PM -- 50+ Years

Mallards are beautiful wetland birds. Join us this month to learn about this bird and make a colorful quilt block to represent the Mallard. Reservations required.

24 Sunday

Come Outside and Note the Sounds of Nature

3 PM -- All Ages (children accompanied by an adult)

Kraak. Jug O'rum. Buzz-zz. What-cheer, cheer, cheer. The sounds of the outdoors are waiting for all to hear. We'll be writing notes about what we detect and drawing what we spy in this month's Nature Notes. Reservations required.

Hunter Education Course. Sign up now for the Missouri Hunter Education Course! Learn how to hunt safely and responsibly. Ten hours of instruction are required and you must be at least eleven years of age to participate. Students sixteen years of age and under must bring proof of age. Reservations required.

July 24 -- 6-9 PM

July 25 -- 6-10 PM

July 26 -- 8 AM - Noon

August 28 -- 6-9 PM

August 29 -- 6-10 PM

August 30 -- 8 AM - Noon

Conservation Kids' Club



Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to one of these meetings and we'll sign you up.

Outdoor Skills Festival

Tuesday, July 15

6 - 8 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this meeting.

Sharpen your outdoor skills! Work in your outdoor kitchen and try out a few new yummy recipes. Practice hunting safely with our firearm simulator. It's a hands-on outdoor experience just for you! Dress for being outside on the trail and wear bug spray.

Branching Out

Tuesday, August 19

6 - 7 PM Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) have their meeting.

7:30 - 8:30 PM Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) have their meeting.

Hike shady trails and find out why trees are tree-mendous. As you branch out, you will begin to master the skills of identifying these green giants. Spend an evening barking up the right tree! Tree-ific facts, crafts, and fun abound.

HEY PARENTS! While big brother/sister attends **Conservation Kids' Club**, your pre-schooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time!

Flutterby Butterfly

Tuesday, July 15

6 - 7 PM (Ages 3 through 6)

From caterpillar to chrysalis and eventually to a full grown butterfly, this life cycle is truly amazing. We will keep our eyes open to the wonders of the butterfly this month.

Turtle Tales

Tuesday, August 19

6 - 7 PM (Ages 3 through 6)

Turtles have been around as long as dinosaurs and maybe longer! Join us for stories, a walk, and close encounters with a few of Missouri's oldest reptiles.

For the little ones . . .



Turtle Tales

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Join us for stories, a walk, and close encounters with a few of Missouri's oldest reptiles. Reservations required.

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Friday, August 8 -- 10 AM

Sunday, August 10 -- 2 PM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, August 5 -- 10 AM

Saturday, August 9 -- 10 AM

Wednesday, August 20 -- 1 PM

Friday, August 22 -- 10 AM



Volunteer Flashback



Volunteer Class of 1992

Clarence Higgins, Bonnie McCarthy, Anna Knaebel, Carolyn Brunner, Caryn Giarratano, Ernie Perry, Terry Blank, and Janice Lauer. Karen Carter and Jodie Franken were not present.

Even before Runge officially opened its doors, volunteers were hard at work. The first class graduated in 1992. Carolyn Brunner, Clarence Higgins, and Terry Blank are **still active** in the Runge volunteer program. Together they have donated almost 9,000 hours on behalf of the nature center.

Flashback!

The area was managed for conservation long before the nature center opened. The Woods and Wildlife Trails were developed on the area in the 1980's.

Feeding Schedule



Fish and Turtles

Monday: Fish 10:30 & 11:30
Turtles 11:00

Wednesday: Fish 12:00
Turtles 12:30

Snakes

July 1, 15, and 29 at 10:30
August 12 and 26 at 10:30

Flashback!

In the summer of 1995, a gift shop was added to the Runge Conservation Nature Center.



10th Birthday Passport

It's not too late to pick up a passport and join in the fun! Every time you attend a nature center-sponsored program or event, we will stamp your passport. When you have 10 stamps, stop by the front desk to claim your birthday gift bag. Each bag contains 10 special items including a packet of wildflower seeds, a CritterRock tape, and a special edition lapel pin.



Joshua and Samuel Baumer were the first two to complete their passports. Congratulations Joshua and Samuel!

2-Stamp Promotion

If you visit us during the July 10th **Birthday Open House**, you will receive a bonus stamp. See the back page for details.



Come Spread Your Wings...

We look forward to seeing you!

Join The Birthday Party

You are invited to a
Birthday Open House
July 10, 2003
6-9 PM

Discover "10" ways to
spread your wings at Runge

Exhibits/Mini Programs

-  1 Conservation Kids' Club
-  2 Wildlifers
-  3 Teen Club
-  4 Little Acorns/Babes In The Woods
-  5 Hiking Club
-  6 Nature Journaling/Runge Reading Guild
-  7 Naturalist-Led Programs
-  8 Trailing Along
-  9 Special Events
-  10 Runge Volunteers

